From: Ben Senior
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Software systems are fundamentally different to hardware systems - ostensibly in their ability to replicate without consuming resources, and their further capacity for self-(re)definition. That the software industry continues to use a metaphor derived from the era of industrial revolution does not mean that it will last. As a researcher at the cutting edge of Large-Systems construction it is patently apparent that this is so.

The restrictions being placed on the market place, and on the entire conceptual view of "what computer systems are" by microsoft will become the single greatest limitation on the evolution of organisational support systems - which in essence is what large information systems are.

Given that our self-organisation is the basis of our species evolution (it is the only thing we have evolved in thirty thousand years, look at the collective impact and capabilities of our species now), and given that modes of political and social orientation are centrally dependent upon our capacity to organise in novel ways, I would go so far as to say that the monopoly of microsoft is not simply industrial, but intellectual and ideological.

In the terrain of software development Microsoft is so absurdely adept at obliterating any signs of competition precisely because it is able to apply, with great coordination, its myriad departments and products in such a way that they re-shape the commercial terrain pre-emptively before initially under-priced targetting products are used like daisy-cutters.

The single most important thing to do is to prevent Microsoft coordinating its forces. This is the necessary first step. This is precisely what the DoJ is not doing.

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